

P (918) 540-2535
F (918) 540-2538



PEORIA TRIBE

OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

118 S. Eight Tribes Trail Miami, OK 74354
P.O. Box 1527 Miami, OK 74355

CHIEF
Craig Harper

SECOND CHIEF
Rosanna Dobbs

**PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING
February 6, 2024**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION:

Chief Harper called the meeting to order, and Carolyn Ritchey gave the Invocation.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Secretary Jenny Rampey declared a quorum with all members present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Rosanna Dobbs made a motion and Carolyn Ritchey seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Carolyn Ritchey made a motion and was seconded by Kara North to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, held on January 2, 2024. Motion passed.

MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:

Financial Reports

Hank Downum made a motion and was seconded by Kara North to approve the Financial Reports for December 2023 as presented. Motion passed.

Enterprise Reports

Chief Harper introduced Mary Jewett, General Manager of Buffalo Run Casino & Resort. Ms. Jewett introduced herself and thanked the council for having her.

Ms. Jewett began her report, which included December Highlights:

Slot Financials

- **Slot Win** showed an *increase* of 3.01% (\$70,381) from December 2023 to December 2024.
- **YTD** showed a *decrease* of 7.94% (\$1,717,564).

Hotel Financials

- **Hotel Occupancy** reflected a *decrease* of 15.91% (206) from December 2023 to December 2024. YTD reflects a *decrease* of 3.40% (567) in occupancy.
- **Hotel Net Income** reflected an *increase of loss* of 1745.73% (\$35,735) from December 2023 to December 2024. YTD reflects an *increased loss* of 156.52% (\$57,720).

Golf Financials

- **Golf Net Income** reflected an *increased loss* of 21.18% (\$7,379) from December 2023 to December 2024. YTD reflected an *increased loss* of 30.50% (\$127,072).

Food and Beverage

- **Bistro** comparing December FY2023 to FY2024 showed an *increase* of 32554.29% (\$79,758). *The Bistro was not open this time last year, thus the large increase.*
- **Backwoods** showed a *decrease* of 50.58% (\$44,788).
- **Coal Creek** showed a *decrease* of 9.47% (\$14,079).
- **Main Bar** showed a *decrease* of 18.56% (\$17,644).
- **Backwoods Bar** showed a *decrease* of 46.57% (\$4,794).
- **Total F&B Sales** showed an overall *decrease* of 0.45% (\$1,547).

2024 Casino Distribution

- **Casino Distribution** showed a *decrease* of 12.85% (\$51,628) from December 2023 to December 2024 with a *decrease* of 17.46% (\$720,107) YTD.

Ms. Jewett continued her report by sharing updates on the Casino, which included:

- Held the 1st Annual Team Member Gala honoring top 2023 employees.
- Reviewed improvements to the employee benefits as well as to the health insurance benefits.
- Introduced Duetto, a new hotel revenue management software implemented in the second week of January.
- Reviewed current cost-savings due to negotiations with vendors.
- Completed the bleacher installation inside the Showplace and sold out January's concert.
- Completed the entrance to the Peoria Showplace.
- Relocation of table games for improved strategic placement.

Ms. Jewett thanked the Committee and asked if there were any questions.

Chief Harper then introduced Erin Barnes, Director of Natural Resources, and Sam Doty, Greenhouse Manager for the Tribe.

Mr. Doty introduced himself to the Business Committee and the citizens. He then gave a brief introduction and spoke about his credentials. His presentation provided renderings of the future greenhouse and headhouse, divided into four phases of development. Both Erin and Sam were able to answer questions brought forth by the proposed plans.

Mr. Doty thanked the Committee for having him. Chief Harper thanked Sam and Erin and continued with his Administrative Report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Chief Harper began his Administrative Report for January. The report included the following highlights:

- Budget Planning with Directors.
- Received our Buffalo!
- Attended the Muscogee-Creek Nation Inauguration.
- Attended the Wyandotte Nation Dedication.
- Gave the Welcome and attended the Oklahoma Municipal League event held at the Showplace.
- Attended the Shenandoah Concert at Buffalo Run Casino.
- Peoria Housing Authority Board Meeting.
- Observed the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday.
- Attended the ITC Board Meeting.
- Attended the Claremore Indian Hospital Board Meeting.
- Attended the Oklahoma Speaker's Ball.
- Preparing for General Council.
- MAEDS Meeting.
- Meeting with Directors.

After the recap from last month, Chief Harper asked Bill Chase, Director of Finance to give an update regarding the five-dollar Arvest check cashing fee discussed at last month's meeting. Mr. Chase stated that he visited with the local Arvest branch manager. An agreement was made to waive the fee for Peoria tribal citizens for sixty days. At that point, a review will take place.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion/Approval of the Donation Policy for the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, (Second Chief Rosanna Dobbs): Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Scott Myers to approve the Donation policy as presented. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval of the Community Center Rental Policy, (Second Chief Rosanna Dobbs): Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Scott Myers to approve the Community Center policy as presented. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval of the Employee Handbook Revisions, (Second Chief Rosanna Dobbs): Members debated and discussed the motion, for and against. Seeing the need for further discussion, a motion to table was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs. Motion to table was passed.

Discussion/Approval of Revisions to the Eldercare and Disability Reimbursement Program Policies and Procedures, (Crystal Wyrick/Enrollment Department): Motion was made by Scott Myers and seconded by Jenny Rampey to approve the Eldercare and Disability policy as presented. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Members Recommended for Approval by the Enrollment Committee on 01/18/24 Tentatively to be Approved by the Business Committee on 02/06/24 or at the next regularly scheduled or Special Meeting: Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Scott Myers to approve the new members as presented. Motion passed.

R-02-06-24-A, “Approval for Changes to the Peoria Tribal Membership Roll’: Motion was made by Scott Meyers and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve Resolution R-02-06-24-A as presented. Motion passed.

R-02-06-24-B, “Resolution Establishing the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Procurement Policy for Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Programs”: Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-02-06-24-B as presented. Motion passed.

R-02-06-24-C, “Resolution Authorizing Submittal of Application to the Rural Business-Cooperative Services (RBCS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for Rural Business Development”: Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve Resolution R-02-06-24-C as presented. Motion passed.

R-02-06-24-D, “Authorization for Signatures on Arvest Wealth Management Account”: Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-02-06-24-D as presented. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval to Waive Procurement Policy to Sole Source to Growspan Greenhouse Structures: Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Scott Meyers to waive the procurement policy for the project discussed. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval to Allocate the Remainder of ARPA Funding: Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve the disbursement of the remaining funding as allocated. Motion passed.

FY2025 Budgets: Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve the FY2025 Budgets as presented. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval for the location of Powwow and Infrastructure Investment: Motion was made by Scott Meyers and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to hold the 27th Annual Peoria Powwow at the Showplace at Buffalo Run Casino. Motion passed.

Update from Election Committee Chairman, Kristen Gillman: Kristen Gillman gave an overview of the election process, gave recommendations from the Election Committee, and shared the results of last year’s survey. Ms. Gillman will share this information with citizens in the next newsletter. No motion or action taken.

Discussion/Approval of Employee Wage Change Recommendations (done in Executive Session): Motion was made by Scott Myers and seconded by Hank Downum to approve wage changes as recommended by H.R. in Executive Session. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chief Harper began “Public Comments” by asking if there were any questions so that each Tribal Citizen had the opportunity to address the Business Committee or ask questions.

Citizen Axle Farless:

Regarding the discussion about holding the 2024 Powwow at Buffalo Run Casino, Mr. Farless asked everyone to be mindful of parking, any potential shows happening near the same time, and any other small details that this could affect.

Citizen W. Tosan Farless:

Mr. Farless thanked Second Chief Dobbs for staying the entire time at last year’s Powwow. He is looking forward to this year’s Stomp Dance and hog fry after General Council.

Citizen Nick Hargrove:

Mr. Hargrove stated that it appears that there may be several reoccurring issues with submitting Eldercare reimbursement documents and that the department should re-examine the issues with receipts. He also stated that the General Council in the 1990s was when the separation of Tribal Administrator and Chief was first addressed. He proposes bringing this topic up at the Council and not the Business Committee meeting. Lastly, he stated that the Casino financials were bad and that he hoped that these were being taken seriously.

Citizen John Froman:

Mr. Froman stated that members have called Peoria Ridge Golf Course with a concern about free golf for staff being taken away. Several staff that would normally work there for free golf are not returning for employment. He asked the tribe to please revisit this and would like to know why it was taken away. Mary Jewett, General Manager for the Casino and Enterprise responded that three years ago, Peoria Ridge Golf Course was transferred under the Casino. Change was inevitable as a cost-saving initiative, and from her research, no other golf courses offer this benefit. Ms. Jewett added that although free golf is no longer available, the staff at Peoria Ridge now have benefits and 401K that they did not have before.

Citizen Karen Johnson:

Ms. Johnson stated that she would like to see the Casino concentrate more on the local players and not so much on the truck drivers who are in transit and not here all of the time. She stated that she plays there frequently and does receive some free play but her brother who hasn't played at the casino in a long time receives \$100 in free play, three times a week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Scott Myers and seconded by Jenny Rampey to move into Executive Session at 9:21 p.m. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to come out of Executive Session at 10:15 pm. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 pm.


Authorized Signature


Date Approved